

The Charleston Advocate.

"As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

VOL. I.

CHARLESTON, S. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1867.

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NOTE.—No publication made without a responsible name.

All licensed preachers of the M. E. Church, whether traveling or local, are our authorized agents.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Report of S. C. Mission Committee.

Your committee upon the condition of the country would most respectfully state that, having reviewed somewhat the moral, religious, and political condition of the country, find very much that is encouraging, still there are many evils—many great barriers to moral and religious progress.

MORALS.

Wickedness appears everywhere, in high life and low life—in the mansion with the opulent, the intelligent and refined, as well as in the hovel with the poor, the ignorant and degraded. Its foot-prints are seen in the ruin and desolation caused by the recent war, which will stand as a monument to the wickedness of slavery in all time to come. She very by no means engendered virtue and morality, but vice and immorality. The freedpeople, in many instances, will be found to have wrong impressions as to what is moral, or just, or righteous. Slavey was a huge perversion, and it has most hugely perverted its subjects.

The M. E. Church South, by its identification with southern institutions and interest claims a superior right to the southern field of Methodism. And the A. M. E. Church, just as erroneously, standing upon color as a fundamental principle, demands for itself the whole colored population, while the old M. E. Church, the mother of both, with the gravity and dignity of a righteous and fearless parent without distinction of color or caste, not listening to the complaints of unrighteous children, moves on her majestic, unerring every where her blood stained banner of love and redemption.

It is pleasing, also, to note that the Presbyterians and Baptists are doing a noble work in our Father's vineyard. In conclusion, the great changes which have so suddenly come over the country are working favorably, and evince the fact that the Most High is mindful of our nation, and is at the helm of state.

MANUFACTURE.

The war, it is true, has swept away the "peculiar institution," and has demolished the walls which have so long shut out the truth from one class of the Southern people, yet the prejudice of classes engendered by slavery, the animosity created by the war, the hate of the conqueror, combine and form a formidable phalanx against the mission of the Church.

So great has been, and is yet, sectional hate, so great the rage of the rebel, that our preachers and teachers have been grossly insulted, many times threatened with violence, and their lives endangered. The gospel would be preached, churches organized, and schools taught in many places where there are neither color, in our country.

but for such barbarity, such savage meanness which now disgraces the country; class and sectional prejudice is now the greatest barrier to the progress of the gospel.

COUNTRIES.

As to politics, there are those who adhere tenaciously to old principles, customs and institutions; and there are others who as earnestly embrace radical doctrines, and thus a moral struggle goes on, while that "sum of all villainies" that great father of infamy, that deadly enemy to virtue and truth, that robber of man's God-given rights, is forever gone, by a decree of heaven, through the agency of wise God, in that glorious manner, having demolished the nation to be just and righteous, while the graves of the victims of war are yet fresh, and while the wall of the widow and orphan is yet heard, men, child slaves, and would if they could raise it to life again. The denuding roar of artillery, the clattering of musketry, and the carnage of battle, have given place to a tremendous war of ideas. This heard, it runs through man's pathway, is glorious; its victories are won upon the soft and falling leaves of a beautiful Sabbath, as he breathes from heaven by Him who spares none, and came the glorious message to the conscience, that yesterday's slave is today a free man, completely enfranchised as a sovereign citizen. The prodded hand of oppression is brought to a cessation, and tyrants have suddenly dropped from the hand, and the former slaves and master are equals in political rights. Truly now, as of old, God has caused to go and gather a company of saints of another nation, his tabernacles, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and a stretched out arm.

Democracy, free speech, and a free press have always been the handmaids of Christianity. And the history of the church in the old world, where it has struggled against monarchies, dynasties, through blood and dolor, strewing its path with millions of martyrs, its long and disastrous wars in the Caucasus, the bloody English revolution, the restrictions of France, the days of doom of Acre, of Wycliffe and Hus, the tyranny of Topstone and the Inquisitor should admonish us to preserve and hold ever dear these great democratic principles.

CONCLUSIONS.

A silent contest is going on between three powerful religious denominations, each of which is struggling for the ascendancy, and denominational interest too often clash for the good of all.

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Resolved. That as the freedmen must finders nor expatriates, the case is plain now, since all the grave responsibilities of citizens, and as slavery has had no opportunity comes to put it upon tendency to fit them to fully understand the lists for the example of coming and appreciate these duties and privileges.

Resolved. That as the social and political harmony depends much upon the justice of a Plan of Separation, what need have the fundamental principles of human law, that great father of infamy, that deadly enemy to virtue and truth, that robber of man's God-given rights, is forever gone, by a decree of heaven, through the agency of wise God, in that glorious manner, having demolished the nation to be just and righteous, while the graves of the victims of war are yet fresh, and while the wall of the widow and orphan is yet heard, men, child slaves, and would if they could raise it to life again. The denuding roar of artillery, the clattering of musketry, and the carnage of battle, have given place to a tremendous war of ideas. This heard, it runs through man's pathway, is glorious; its victories are won upon the soft and falling leaves of a beautiful Sabbath, as he breathes from heaven by Him who spares none, and came the glorious message to the conscience, that yesterday's slave is today a free man, completely enfranchised as a sovereign citizen. The prodded hand of oppression is brought to a cessation, and tyrants have suddenly dropped from the hand, and the former slaves and master are equals in political rights. Truly now, as of old, God has caused to go and gather a company of saints of another nation, his tabernacles, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and a stretched out arm.

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